



The President's Daily Brief

November 20, 1975

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~~Top Secret~~ 25X1

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SPAIN

Death came to General Franco last night following weeks of medical efforts to prolong his life.

Spain's Regency Council convened this morning, and an official announcement said Prince Juan Carlos will be installed on Saturday (6:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time) as King Juan III.

Franco's body is to lie in state at the Royal Palace in Madrid from tomorrow until burial on Sunday at the Valley of the Fallen, outside the capital. There will be an official mass next Thursday, for foreign dignitaries to attend, in Madrid.

PORTUGAL

Prime Minister Azevedo's government suspended its functions early this morning, announcing that a split in the military made governing impossible.

The government apparently has taken this action in an attempt to force President Costa Gomes to resolve the differences within the military between the anti-Communist ruling faction, led by Foreign Minister Antunes, and the faction backed by the far left and the Communists.

The split has led to a breakdown in military discipline which has crippled Azevedo's efforts to maintain public order and concentrate on governing the country.

Leaving it to Costa Gomes to solve the present dilemma is a serious sign of weakness--and perhaps resignation--by Portugal's present pro-Western leaders. The President's penchant for damaging compromise does not augur well for a prompt or satisfactory solution.

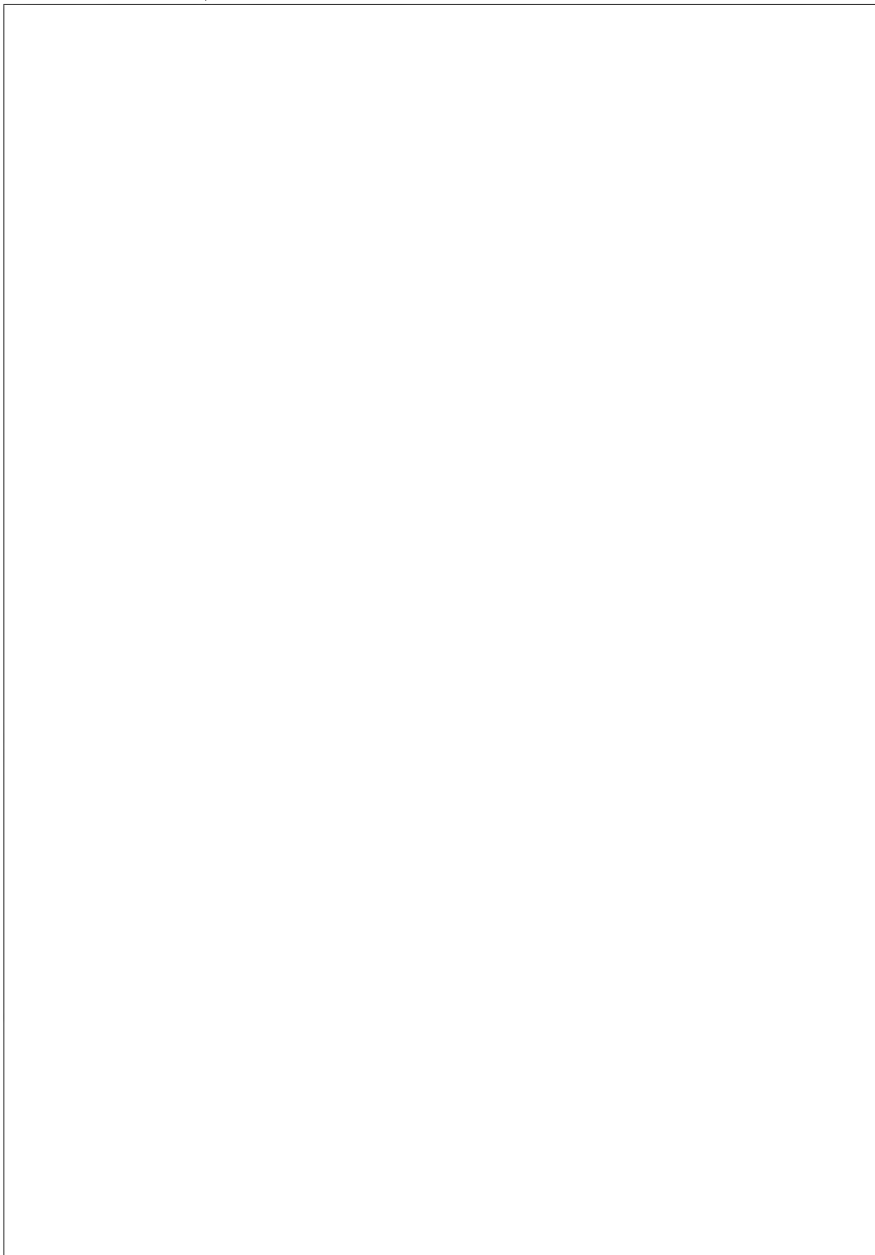
The Revolutionary Council meets later today to discuss the government's decision. The Council must act firmly if the government is to be saved.

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PLO-EGYPT

Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasir Arafat appears to be trying to improve relations between the PLO and Egypt. Relations have been strained since early September, when Palestinian leaders attacked Cairo for accepting a second Sinai accord that included no promise of Israeli concessions for the Palestinians.

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The PLO decision to improve its standing with Egypt almost certainly was prompted by Sadat's forceful defense of Palestinian rights during his visit to the US last month. In addition, the Palestinians appreciate Egypt's help this month in winning UN General Assembly approval of two pro-Palestinian resolutions.

PLO spokesmen continue to emphasize, for the record, that their approval of the UN resolution inviting the Palestinians to participate in all conferences on the Middle East does not constitute a PLO agreement to take part in a future session of the Geneva peace talks. This, however, is surely a bargaining ploy. The Palestinians would undoubtedly attend if invited on an equal basis with the other participants or as part of a single joint Arab delegation.

The current lull in the fighting in Beirut has provided Arafat time to seek wider Arab and international support. He visited Libya early this week and is now in Saudi Arabia.

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Arafat also plans an early trip to Moscow, according to press reports from the Middle East. He has been considering such a visit for some time. He may have decided to go there now because of Moscow's call early this month for Palestinian participation in the Geneva conference "from the very beginning."

ANGOLA

The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola says it has scored two new victories in central Angola against the Soviet-supported Popular Movement.

The National Union announced on Tuesday that its forces--presumably in conjunction with those of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola--had just captured Malanje, some 270 miles east of Luanda.

Malanje was one of the Popular Movement's few remaining strongholds in central Angola. Its loss leaves a wide gap between Popular Movement forces in Luanda and in eastern Angola, where the Movement has a major strike force.

Yesterday, the National Union announced the capture of Gabela, about 150 miles southeast of Luanda.

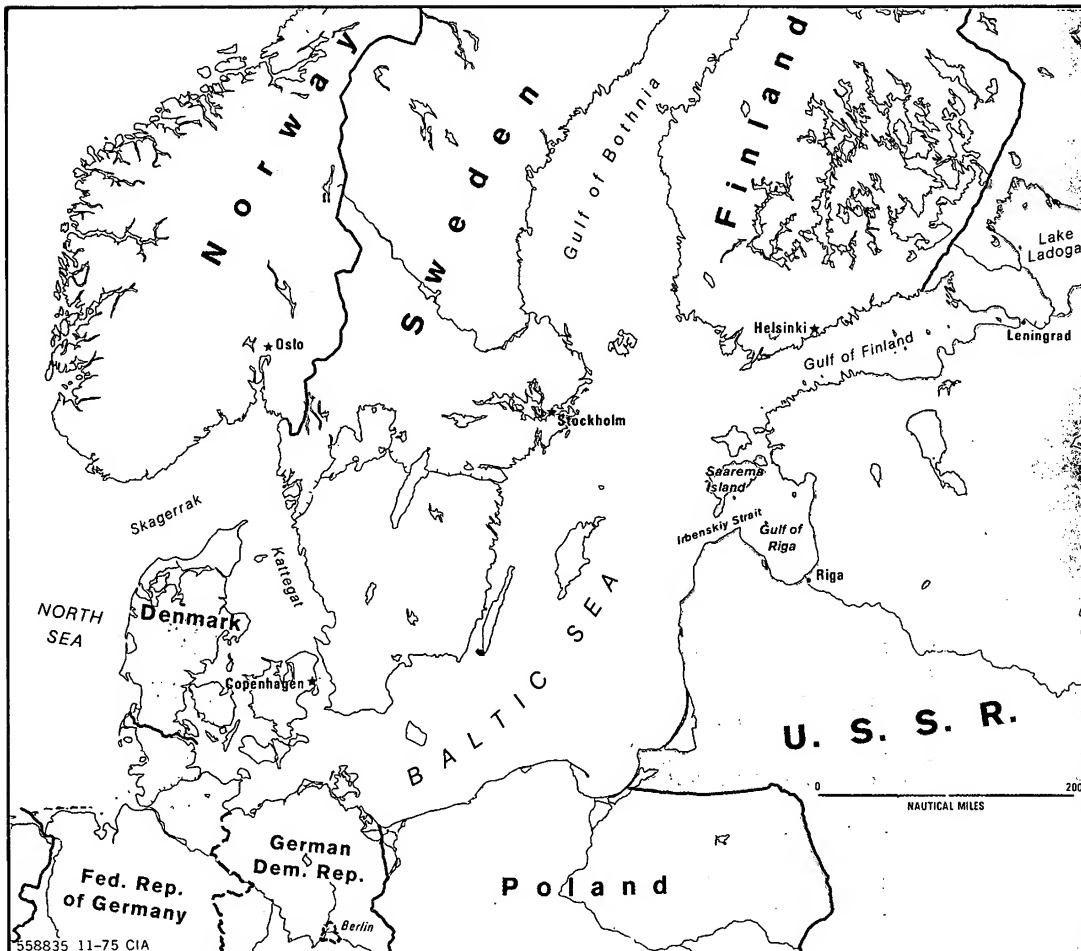
The Zairian news agency reported yesterday, however, that the National Front - National Union force's northward advance on Luanda has been "fatally delayed" by the Popular Movement's destruction of six bridges along the route to the capital.

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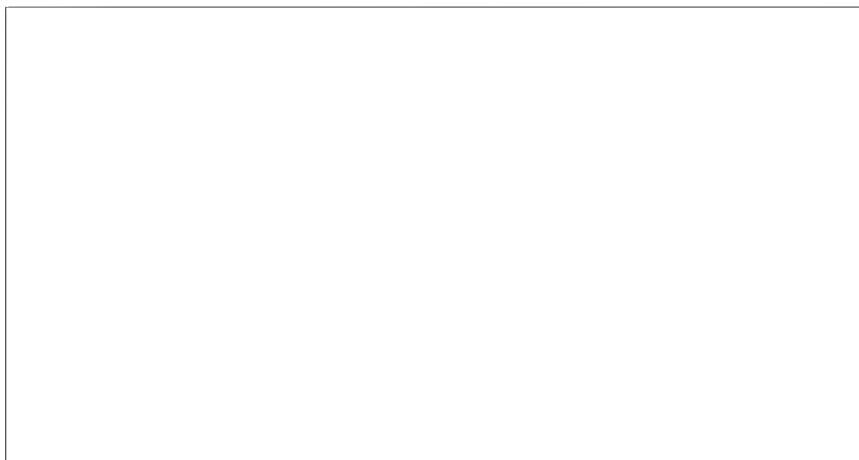
A similar tactic several weeks ago deterred a National Front advance on Luanda from the north.

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